India have been pushing for the conclusion and full operationalisation of the South Asian Preferential Trade Arrangement (SAPTA) process started in 1993. India is also pushing for early finalization of the Draft Framework Treaty on establishing a South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA).

Appointment of ESI Doctors

*434. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the recruitment rules in respect of appointment of medical officers of ESI hospitals are proposed to be radically modified;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and whether the proposal runs counter to the established norms of recruitment to Government/ autonomous agencies;

(c) whether prior approval of Government was obtained for the proposed modification; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) There is no proposal for amendment of Recruitment Regulations of the Medical Officers, at present.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Action against officers

†*435. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in recent years a list of 2427 officials was prepared by the Central Vigilance Commission who were accused of corruption charges; and

(b) the number of persons out of them against whom cases have been initiated so far in the court of law?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.